GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:744
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2009
WHO GUIDELINES ON BREAST FEEDING
Subbarayan Shri K.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines regarding breast-feeding for the infants; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for ensuring compliance of these guidelines in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) The World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines on infant feeding envisage initiation of breastfeeding within an hour of birth, exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life followed by continued breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding for upto two years and beyond.

(b) The Government is already complying with the WHO guidelines by adopting them and issuing appropriate guidelines to the states through the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) programme and through the Ministry of Women and Child Development under the Integrated Development of Child Services (ICDS) scheme. Steps taken by the Government to implement these guidelines are:

Behaviour change to promote breastfeeding by involving all grass root workers viz Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Using all available channels to promote improved breastfeeding − health related contacts as well as mass media

Augment counseling on breastfeeding and complementary feeding through antenatal and postnatal contacts with mothers and through Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs)

Provide for training of health personnel on infant and young child feeding i.e. breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding.